



WEST SIDE CITIZENS ORGANIZATION

127 West Winifred Street
Saint Paul, MN 55107

March 7, 2011

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Committee Members,

For the past many years, the Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA) with the support of multiple community partners has been diligently working to improve the economic base of District del Sol. Despite the challenging economic climate in which we all operate, REDA has successfully leveraged millions of private and public resources to further community and city-wide goals by cleaning up toxic sites, hosting cultural events, leading beautification efforts and spearheading commercial redevelopment.

Improvements to Parque Castillo are critical for the continued success of the District del Sol Corridor. The currently underutilized park does not adequately serve the needs of the adjacent residents, nor does it live up to its potential as an aesthetically pleasing gateway into the City of Saint Paul. The long overdue investment in Parque Castillo will leverage millions of dollars of additional investment and provide much needed recreational and cultural space for youth and families.

WSCO strongly encourages the CIB Committee to make Parque Castillo a priority for 2012 and 2013 funding.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder
WSCO Executive Director